

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

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Jean-Luc TAUREL et al.

MAR 1 1 2004

Group Art Unit: 3753

Application No.: 09/843,809 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700 Examiner: A. Chambers

Filed: April 30, 2001

Docket No.: 109419

For: A FUEL TANK AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING IT

APPLICANTS' SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chambers in the March 5, 2004 personal interview. The following is Applicants' record of the personal interview conducted March 5, 2004.

During the personal interview, Examiner Chambers agreed that Applicants' Request for Reconsideration and arguments presented during the personal interview overcome the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over U.S. Patent 6,216,734 to Umetsu et al. (hereinafter "Umetsu").

With respect to the remaining §102(b) rejection over U.S. Patent 5,186,200 to Kimura et al. (hereinafter "Kimura"), Applicants' representative explained that it was unclear from the Office Action exactly which portions of the device disclosed in Kimura are alleged by Examiner Chambers to be equivalent to the elements of rejected claim 1. Applicants' representative then pointed out that, at the very least, the fuel pump disclosed in Kimura was not entirely within either of the pump bracket 3 or the rotary tank 2. Examiner Chambers agreed to reconsider Applicants' arguments.

Finally, Applicants' representative traversed the withdrawal of claims 27-31.

Applicants' representative explained that claim 31 was in fact a device claim rather than a method claim and should be examined with claims 1-6 and 9-26. Examiner Chambers agreed to reconsider claim 31 as well as the remaining grounds for the Restriction Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JOC/cmf

Date: March 8, 2004

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